

Offshore (Tanka in Hawaii)

Mitsue Yamaguchi

a huge tsunami
swept away
uncountable people
from the shores of Japan
so far away from this azure ocean

この碧き海のかなたに幾びとを攫ひし津波ぞ日本の沖に

I would enjoy myself
for a while
forgetting the nuclear disaster
looking up at the Fire Tree
in the sky

原発をしばし忘れて遊ばむよ火炎樹の花を空に見上げて

walking in Hawaii with Mom
leaning on a stick
she has been surviving
the great war and
the great earthquake

大戦を大地震を生き永らへて杖つく姑と歩むハワイに

chasing a dove with my eyes
it may have reached
the tallest branch
with red berries
on a Banyan tree

飛び立ちし鳩を見やれば紅き実なるバニヤンツリーの高き梢か

splashing shining sea spray
contestants
are rowing their canoes
offshore
offshore

光る波しぶきを放ち選手らはカヌー漕ぎ出づ沖へ沖へと